

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4, 6-13 and 16 as follows:

1. (currently amended): A medical image processing method of processing image data representing an image obtained by radiography and read by an image reading apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving ~~the plural kinds of image data~~ representing a series of images and respective photographing condition conditions when the ~~image is~~ series of images are obtained;

(b) executing image processing of the plural kinds of image data;

(c) ~~reading~~ obtaining output-format control information corresponding to the photographing ~~condition~~ conditions received at step (a) from a predetermined set of output-format control information to be used to control an image format when the ~~image is~~ series of images are to be output in one screen ~~on a film~~; and

(d) automatically constructing a layout of the ~~image~~ series of images to be output in one screen on the basis of the ~~read~~ output-format control information obtained at step (c).

2. (currently amended): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein each of said photographing ~~condition~~ conditions is determined in accordance with a portion to be photographed.

3. (currently amended): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

storing the ~~read~~ obtained output-format control information as image attendant information of the image data; and

outputting one of (i) the ~~image~~ series of images after the image processing and (ii) the ~~image-constructed~~ series of images in the layout ~~constructed~~ based on the basis of the image attendant information stored output-format control information, in accordance with a user's instruction.

4. (currently amended): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising a the step of:

previewing and adjusting ~~an image~~ the series of images to be output in one screen ~~on the film~~.

5. (original): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said output-format control information includes information to be used to control at least one of an output position, a position adjustment, an output size, a rotating state and an inverting state of the image.

6. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus for processing image data representing an image obtained by radiography and read by an image reading apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

first means for receiving ~~the plural kinds of~~ image data representing a series of images and respective ~~photographing condition~~ conditions when the ~~image is~~ series of images are obtained;

second means for executing image processing of the plural kinds of image data; and

third means for ~~reading~~ obtaining output-format control information corresponding to the photographing ~~condition~~ conditions received by said first means from a predetermined set of output-format control information to be used to control an image format when the ~~image is~~ series of images are to be output in one screen; and ~~on a film~~

fourth means for automatically constructing a layout of the series of images to be output in one screen on the basis of the output-format control information obtained by said third means.

7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

means for storing the ~~read~~ obtained output-format control information as image attendant information of the image data; and

means for outputting one of (i) the ~~image series of images~~ after the image processing and (ii) the ~~image-constructed series of images~~ in the layout ~~constructed based on the basis of the image-attendant information stored output-format control information~~, in accordance with a user's instruction.

9. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus ~~according to claim 6, further~~ for processing image data representing an image obtained by radiography and read by an image reading apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

first means for receiving plural kinds of image data representing a series of images and respective photographing conditions when the series of images are obtained;

second means for executing image processing of the plural kinds of image data; and

third means for obtaining output-format control information corresponding to the photographing conditions received by said first means from a predetermined set of output-format control information to be used to control an image format when the series of images are to be output in one screen;

fourth means for storing the ~~read~~ obtained output-format control information as image attendant information of the image data; and

fifth means for outputting the image data and the image attendant information.

10. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 7 ~~6~~, wherein each of said photographing ~~condition~~ conditions is determined in accordance with a portion to be photographed.

11. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein each of said photographing ~~condition~~ conditions is determined in accordance with a portion to be photographed.

12. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 7 ~~6~~, further comprising:

means for previewing and adjusting ~~an image~~ the series of images to be output in one screen ~~on the film~~.

13. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for previewing and adjusting ~~an image~~ the series of images to be output in one screen ~~on the film~~.

14. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 7 6, wherein said output-format control information includes information to be used to control at least one of an output position, a position adjustment, an output size, a rotating state and an inverting state of the image.

15. (original): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said output-format control information includes information to be used to control at least one of an output position, a position adjustment, an output size, a rotating state and an inverting state of the image.

16. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for automatically constructing a layout of ~~an image~~ a series of images to be output in one screen on the basis of input image data and image attendant information; and

means for outputting the image constructed in ~~said~~ the constructed layout.